



AmeriCorps 101



“Getting Things Done!”



History of National Service



1933: Civilian Conservation Corps

1961: Peace Corps

1964: VISTA

1993: The Corporation for National and Community Service
& AmeriCorps

2009: Serve America Act



History of National Service



September 1993 – President Bill Clinton signs National and Community Service Trust Act

- Marks formal creation of AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service to expand opportunities for Americans to serve their communities
- VISTA and Civilian Conservation Corps become part of AmeriCorps



History of National Service



September 1994 – First class of 20,000 AmeriCorps members begin serving in 1,000 communities across the nation



History of National Service



May 2005 – President Bush welcomes AmeriCorps members to Oval Office as part of the first-ever AmeriCorps Week and to mark the 500,000 member milestone



History of National Service



April 2009 – President Barack Obama signs Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act

- Landmark, bipartisan legislation to expand national service to 250,000 members by 2017
- Priority focus on national issues related to education, health, environment, veterans, and economic opportunity



History of National Service



- July 2013 – President Barack Obama creates the Task Force on Expanding National Service
- Results in new public and private AmeriCorps partnerships focused on addressing critical challenges in education, economic opportunity, and the environment



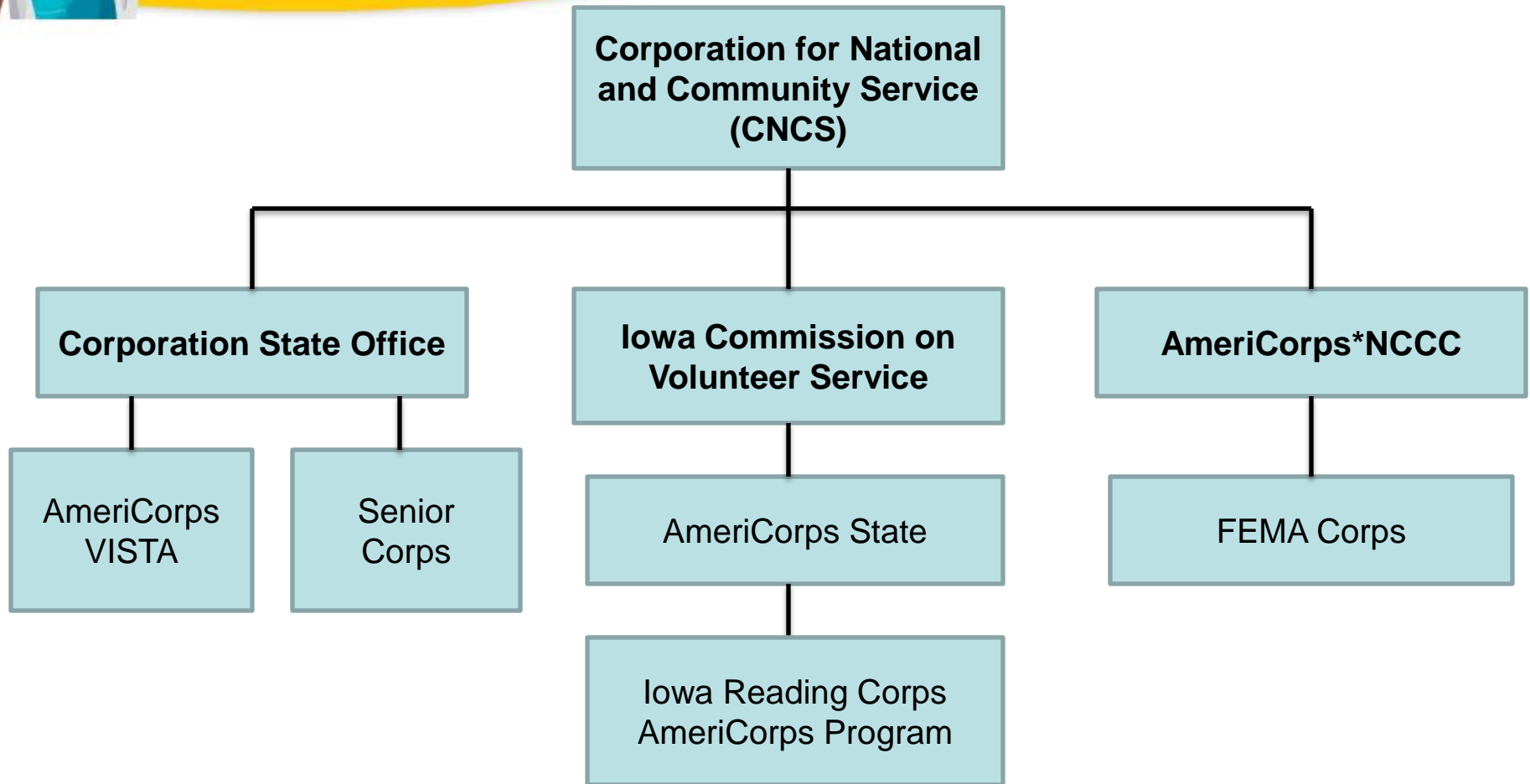
National Service Overview

Reviewing the National Service family tree!





National Service Organizational Chart





Corporation for National and Community Service

Established to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and nation.



Through federal programs and grants, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) provides human capital – people power – to help address community needs:

- Senior Corps (individuals 55+)
- AmeriCorps (VISTA, State, and NCCC)



Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service strives to create an Iowa where all citizens are empowered through service to meet community challenges and make lives better.



The ICVS oversees funding of local AmeriCorps*State and Senior Corps programs while supporting numerous other statewide volunteer initiatives.



AmeriCorps Today

- Teach and Tutor
- Mentor Youth
- Build homes
- Conserve the environment
- Provide health services
- Respond to disasters
- Mobilize volunteers
- Assist veterans
- *Much, much more...*





AmeriCorps Today



**AmeriCorps
State/National**

**AmeriCorps
VISTA**

**AmeriCorps
NCCC**



AmeriCorps State and National



- Largest branch of AmeriCorps
- More than 80,000 members serve each year
- Members serve with more than 13,000 organizations
- Members address needs in education, environment, health, housing, disaster response and more
- Grantees include national and local nonprofits, schools, and universities, public agencies, and Native American tribes
- Full-time and half-time opportunities



AmeriCorps*VISTA



- Poverty-fighting arm of AmeriCorps
- Created in 1964 as part of the War on Poverty
- 7,700 members serve each year
- Focus on building capacity through raising funds, recruiting volunteers, and designing sustainable programs
- More than 1,000 project sponsors
- Full-time, year-long service



AmeriCorps*NCCC



- Team-based, residential program
- Teams travel to projects in neighboring states
- Open to 18-24 year-olds
- 1,100 members serve each year
- Members live on 5 campuses:
Sacramento, CA; Denver, CO; Vinton, IA; Perry Point, MD and Vicksburg, MS
- Full-time, 10-month service commitment



Eligibility Requirements

Minimum education requirements - completion of high school diploma or GED

- Some programs require a college degree

Status as a U.S. citizen

Minimum age requirement of 18

- Certain programs, like Youth Corps, allow younger individuals to serve with their program



AmeriCorps Member Benefits

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

- \$1,212.44 for minimum-time Summer AmeriCorps Members used to pay for future college expenses or to pay back qualified student loans
- Accessed through My AmeriCorps account upon completion of term of service

Living allowance

- \$2,500 to be distributed equally throughout term of service

Federal loan forbearance and interest payments



AmeriCorps Fast Facts

900,000 AmeriCorps members served since 1994

\$2.4 Billion Total amount of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards earned by AmeriCorps members

4 Million Volunteers managed or mobilized by AmeriCorps members in 2012

15,000 Nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations served by AmeriCorps members

\$480 Million Value of non-CNCS cash and in-kind donations leveraged by AmeriCorps programs in 2010



Who Benefits from AmeriCorps?

Youth, Seniors, and Others In Need benefit from the tutoring, mentoring, health, housing, and other services members provide.

Communities benefit from having better schools, safer streets, more affordable housing, a cleaner environment, and more engaged citizens.

Organizations gain from having more reach and impact: 92% of sponsoring groups say members helped increase how many people they served to a large or moderate extent.

Members acquire leadership and career skills, earn money for college, and learn how to be active citizens.



AmeriCorps Branding

- Identify yourself as an **AmeriCorps member**
 - Rather than a volunteer, employee, or worker
- Ensure AmeriCorps logo is proudly displayed
 - AmeriCorps gear – wear lanyard and/or name tag daily and button
 - Include AmeriCorps logo in email signature and in print communications with teachers, families, etc.
- Share your AmeriCorps story
 - Reach out to local newspapers, radio stations, etc.



Knowledge Check: AmeriCorps Quiz Time!



AmeriCorps Quiz

Jamie, a 26-year-old graduate student, is interested in dedicating a year to service after graduation. She's particularly interested in traveling and is strongly considering applying for AmeriCorps*NCCC. Is she eligible?

No, AmeriCorps*NCCC members must be between the ages of 18-24. AmeriCorps*NCCC is the only program with an upper age limit.



AmeriCorps Quiz

True or False?

AmeriCorps State members can hold a part-time job as long as it does not interfere with their service schedule?

True. AmeriCorps State members are permitted to hold a second job. AmeriCorps*VISTA members are NOT permitted to hold a second job due to the program's focus on alleviating poverty.



AmeriCorps Quiz

Bryan, a junior at Iowa State University, uses his credit card to pay for tuition. Can he use his Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to pay off his credit card balance?

No, Bryan needs to use his “My AmeriCorps” account to transfer his Education Award to ISU to be applied toward tuition for his senior year. He should also contact the student financial aid office at ISU to discuss these plans.



AmeriCorps Quiz

True or False?

AmeriCorps members are considered employees of their service site.

False! AmeriCorps members are National Service members who fall in a separate category from traditional employees and/or volunteers.



AmeriCorps Quiz

True or False?

A member can NOT use entire value of his/her Segal AmeriCorps Education Award at one time.

False. The Education Award can be used incrementally or as a “lump sum” payment toward existing student loans or to pay for future college expenses.



AmeriCorps Quiz

Julie recently completed her high school GED. Before joining the workforce, she wants to join AmeriCorps to gain more direct experience working with veterans. Is Julie eligible to serve as an AmeriCorps member?

Yes! Julie should double-check the program-specific requirements, but completion of a GED makes her eligible for AmeriCorps service.



Questions?